

NEW SALEM
SPRINGFIELD Post Rd.

DRAWER 12

NEW SALEM

Illinois

New Salem

Springfield Post Road

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Lincoln's New Salem - Springfield Post Road



Dedication Pilgrimage - February 12, 1976

Commemorating United States Bicentennial

1776-1976

Area for your personal bicentennial message For your company's collection of Lincolniana. "Doc" Temple



This beautiful collectors' envelope commemorating the dedication pilgrimage of Lincoln's New Salem-Springfield Post Road will be carried over the old original route on February 12, 1976, and given a special cancellation on that date only. In addition to the artistic cachet, a first-day postmark will depict young Lincoln sorting mail in front of the New Salem Post Office where he served as postmaster. It was at New Salem that Lincoln, as a young adult, lived from 1831 to 1837 and developed his many brilliant talents.

- As a surveyor, young Lincoln in 1834 laid out several miles of this Post Road south of Athens.
- As a politician, young Lincoln visited with settlers all along this Post Road. In fact, at Athens he made his first campaign speech for re-election to the State Legislature in 1836.
- As a student, young Lincoln tramped this route to borrow law books from his Black-Hawk-War friend in Springfield, Major John Todd Stuart.
- As a Lawyer, young Lincoln in 1841 recovered the "Long Nine" building in Athens for his client, Col. Matthew Rogers.
- As a Riverman, young Lincoln constructed a flatboat for Denton Offutt at old Sangamo Town in 1831. Later, he piloted the steamboat Talsman on the Sangamon River. The Post Road crosses the Sangamon River from New Salem to Springfield at two points.
- As a representative in the General Assembly from Sangamon County, young Lincoln and the other "Long Nine" legislators were banqueted and toasted in 1837 by their local constituents who lived near this Post Road. They were honored in both Springfield and Athens with dinners for their successful efforts in moving the Illinois State Capital from Vandalia to Springfield.
- As the martyred Sixteenth President of the United States, the immortal Lincoln lies buried beside this Post Road where it enters Springfield, Illinois.

This historic bicentennial route will be enjoyed by thousands of traveling Americans and would not have been possible except through personal sacrifice and dedication of the community leaders listed below:

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Lincoln's Post Road "Coach and Four" • Saddle Tramp Gap • Bell Family • Athens, Illinois
Lincoln's Post Road "Wagon Train '76" • Grover Smith Family • Rochester, Illinois
Lincoln's Post Road "Pilgrimage Escort Guard" • 7th Illinois Cavalry Reactivated, Commanding Officer, Col. Harlington Wood, Jr.

This list was completed and printed in early 1976 and does not include everyone who worked to make this LINCOLN POST ROAD DEDICATION a lasting success. Abraham Lincoln's toast at the "Long Nine" celebration July 25, 1837, Springfield, Illinois, appropriately expresses the sentiments of the sponsors of the Lincoln's New Salem - Springfield Post Road

"ALL OUR FRIENDS-THEY ARE TOO NUMEROUS TO BE NOW NAMED INDIVIDUALLY, WHILE THERE IS NO ONE OF THEM WHO IS NOT TOO DEAR TO BE FORGOTTEN OR NEGLECTED."

No celebration of the Bicentennial of the United States would be complete without a fitting tribute to the memory of the man most responsible for preserving this nation when it was threatened with disintegration three-quarters of a century after our War of Independence.

This rural lawyer who left Springfield to head the country in its most troublous times, knew Illinois well. Before he was elected to make its laws he walked over its hills and valleys and surveyed much of the land.

The route of the New Salem to Springfield Post Road that Abraham Lincoln often traversed and which he helped survey has recently been authenticated and will be formally dedicated on his birthday anniversary, February 12.

Recognizing its historical significance, the Seventy-ninth General Assembly in a joint resolution authorized the placing of an appropriate marker each mile along the route. The sign selected, depicting a coach and four horses, will lead travelers past many famous landmarks.

THEREFORE I, Dan Walker, Governor of the State of Illinois, proclaim February 12, 1976, LINCOLN POST ROAD DAY and urge all Illinoisans to participate in ceremonies planned for the day.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

*Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this NINETEENTH day of DECEMBER, in the
Year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred
and SEVENTY-FIVE, and of the State of
Illinois the one hundred and FIFTY-EIGHTH*



michael J. Howlett
SECRETARY OF STATE

Dan Walker
GOVERNOR

1776

LINCOLN'S
NEW SALEM-
SPRINGFIELD
POST ROAD
DEDICATION
Feb. 12, 1976

Land of Lincoln

1976

ILLINOIS

My summer Illinois license plate
LS





